

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Secretary Pruitt
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

May 11, 2017

Dear Secretary Pruitt,

We are writing to express strong opposition to proposed cuts to the Lead Risk Reduction Program and the proposed elimination of the Toxic Substances Control Act Section 404(g) Lead-Based Paint Programs grants. Lead-based paint has been outlawed in the United States for nearly 30 years. Elevated blood lead concentrations in children are linked to brain damage, learning disabilities, and behavioral issues. The scientific consensus, supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, is that there is no safe level of blood lead concentration in children. Yet in more than 3,000 neighborhoods in the United States, over 10 percent of children have elevated concentrations of lead in their blood.

The Lead Risk Reduction Program trains renovators working in buildings that may contain lead-based paint to uphold federal safety standards. Thirty-six states rely entirely on the federal government to provide this training. The Lead-Based Paint Programs grants help offset the cost to states and tribes developing and implementing their own lead risk prevention programs, a vital tool in efforts to end childhood lead-poisoning. The reduction or elimination of these programs would represent a tremendous step backwards in the decades-long effort to guarantee all children a safe place to live.

Furthermore, a 2009 study found that every dollar invested in lead paint hazard control results in up to \$221 in net savings. Children with lead-poisoning require medical treatment and are likely to need extra support in school and have lower lifetime earnings. Directing our resources towards prevention protects not just public health but public dollars.

In every corner of the country, children are being poisoned by their own homes. While no community is immune, the scourge of lead exposure disproportionately impacts working- and middle-class families that struggle to afford the costly renovations required to keep their children safe. For these families, this funding is a lifeline. Eliminating it will keep thousands of American children directly in harm's way.

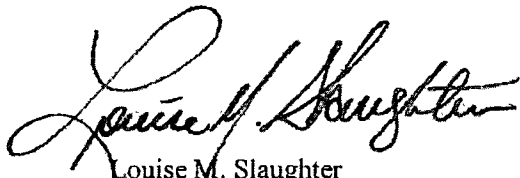
Sincerely,



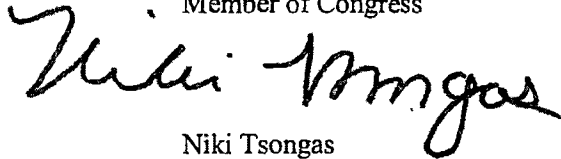
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



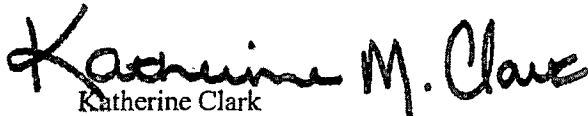
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress




Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



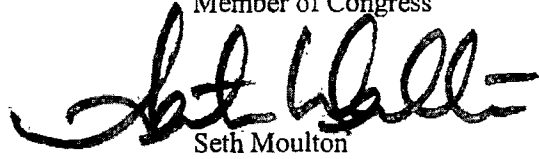
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



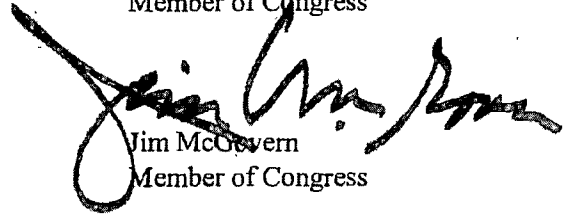
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Jim McGovern
Member of Congress